

11.6 SENIOR CORPS PROGRAMS

Tapping the Rich Experience, Skills, and Talents of the 55+ Population

Through grants and other resources—including the energy and efforts of citizens age 55 and over—Senior Corps helps meet the needs and challenges of America's communities. Grants administered through Senior Corps by the Corporation's State Offices provide funding for three specific programs:

- Foster Grandparents connects volunteers age 60 and over with children and young people with exceptional needs.
- The Senior Companion Program brings together volunteers age 60 and over with adults in their community who have difficulty with the simple tasks of day-to-day living.
- Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) offers "one stop shopping" for all volunteers 55 and over who want to find challenging, rewarding, and significant service opportunities in their local communities.

Foster Grandparents

Making a Difference in the Life of a Child

Foster Grandparents devote their volunteer service entirely to disadvantaged or disabled youth. Across the country, Foster Grandparents help children in many ways:

- Offering emotional support to child victims of abuse and neglect;
- Tutoring children with low literacy skills;
- Mentoring troubled teenagers and young mothers; and
- Caring for premature infants and children with physical disabilities and severe illnesses.

Foster Grandparents are individuals age 60 and over who thrive on direct interaction with children and believe they can make a difference in their lives. Income-eligible Foster Grandparents receive a modest stipend to help offset the costs of volunteering.

When you share your love, time, and experience, you have the power to help a child who needs you. If you're 60 and want to share your experience and compassion, you have what it takes to be a Foster Grandparent.

As a Foster Grandparent, you're a role model, a mentor, and a friend. Serving at one of thousands of local organizations—including faith-based groups, Head Start Centers, schools, and other youth facilities—you help children learn to read, provide one-on-one tutoring, and guide children at a critical time in their lives. Put simply, you give the kind of comfort and love that sets a child on the path toward a successful future.

Foster Grandparents serve up to 40 hours per week. Some volunteers may qualify to earn a tax-free, hourly stipend. With Foster Grandparents, you'll receive pre-service orientation, training from the organization where you serve, and supplemental accident and liability insurance while on duty.

Senior Companions

Senior Companions touch the lives of adults who need extra assistance to live independently in their own homes or communities. They serve frail older adults, adults with disabilities, those with terminal illnesses, and offer respite for caregivers. They assist their adult clients in basic but essential ways:

- Offering companionship and friendship to isolated and frail adults;
- Assisting with simple chores;
- Providing transportation; and
- Adding richness to their clients' lives.

Senior Companions are individuals age 60 or over who want to help adults with special need remain independent and living in their own home. You know how much you value independence in your life. Now you can help others stay independent too.

If you're 60 and want to share your experience and compassion, you have what it takes to be a Senior Companion. By becoming a companion to a frail person, you help that person stay in their own home. Whether you're giving families or professional caregivers much-needed time off, running errands, or simply being a friend, you'll make a difference that strengthens and helps preserve an individual's independence. And you'll join with thousands of others to help control the rising costs of health care.

Senior Companions serve up to 40 hours per week. Some volunteers may qualify to earn a tax-free, hourly stipend. With Senior Companions, you'll receive pre-service orientation, training from the organization where you serve, and supplemental accident and liability insurance while on duty.

RSVP (Retired Senior Volunteer Program)

RSVP offers maximum flexibility and choice to its volunteers as it matches the personal interests and skills of older Americans with opportunities to serve their communities. RSVP volunteers choose how and where they want to serve—from a few hours to more than 40 hours a week. RSVP volunteers provide hundreds of community services, such as:

- Tutoring children in reading and math;
- Building houses;
- Helping get children immunized;
- Modeling parenting skills to teen parents;
- Participating in neighborhood watch programs;
- Planting community gardens;
- Providing counsel to new business owners;
- Offering relief services to victims of natural disasters; and
- Helping community organizations operate more efficiently.

RSVP provides service opportunities for those who want to make a difference in their communities while maintaining the flexibility to decide who and how frequently they serve. RSVP is America's largest volunteer network for people age 55 and over. When you join RSVP you join nearly 500,000 volunteers across the country who are tackling tough issues in their communities.

RSVP offers a full range of volunteer opportunities with thousands of local and national organizations. With RSVP, you choose how and where you want to serve. You choose the amount of time you want to give. And you choose whether you want to draw on your skills or develop new ones. In short, you find the opportunity that's right for you.

With RSVP, you'll receive pre-service orientation, training from the organization where you serve, and supplemental insurance while on duty.